

Claims:

1. An immunogenic conjugate comprising at least one vascular endothelial growth factor (VEGF) peptide moiety coupled to a carrier.
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2. A conjugate according to claim 2 for use in therapy or prophylaxis.
- 10 3. A conjugate as claimed in either one of claims 1 or 2 for combatting tumours and tumour metastasis.
4. A conjugate as claimed in any one of the preceding claims wherein said VEGF peptide moiety comprises an
15 amino acid sequence having at least 80% homology with the whole or a section of a native VEGF sequence.
5. A conjugate as claimed in claim 4 wherein said section of a native VEGF sequence is a section of 8 to
20 100 amino acids.
6. A conjugate as claimed in claim 4 wherein said section of a native VEGF sequence is a section of 12 to
25 amino acids.
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7. A conjugate as claimed in claim 4 wherein said degree of homology is with a section of a native VEGF sequence overlapping, abutting or adjacent a glycosylation site.
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8. A conjugate as claimed in claim 7 wherein said section includes at least 12 of the first 16 amino acid residues from said glycosylation site in the N-terminal direction.
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9. A conjugate as claimed in any one of the preceding claims wherein the VEGF peptide moiety comprises an

oligopeptide comprising at least part of SEQ ID No. 1:
TEESNITMQÍ MRIKPHQGQH IGEMSFLQHN.

10. A conjugate as claimed in any one of the preceding
5 claims wherein the VEGF peptide moiety comprises an
oligopeptide of formula:

(T)_a(M)_b(Q)_c(I)_dMRIKPHQGQ(H)_e(I)_f(G)_g(E)_h(M)_i(S)_j(F)_k(L)_l(Q)_m

10 where:

- a to m are each 0 or 1
- but a to c and f to m may not be 1 unless the sequence so created corresponds to a sequence in
15 SEQ ID No.1
- e to g are 1

11. A conjugate as claimed in claim 10 wherein e to j are 1.

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12. A conjugate as claimed in any one of the preceding claims wherein said VEGF peptide moiety is coupled via its N-terminal end to the carrier.

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13. A conjugate as claimed in any one of the preceding claims where said carrier is selected from the group consisting of the purified protein derivative of tuberculin, tetanus toxoid, diphtheria toxoid, keyhole limpet haemocyanin, glutathione S-transferase and
30 derivatives thereof.

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14. The use of an immunogenic conjugate as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 13 comprising at least one vascular endothelial growth factor peptide moiety coupled to a carrier for the manufacture of a medicament for use in combatting tumours.

15. A vascular endothelial growth factor derivative comprising at least one VEGF peptide moiety coupled to a peptide carrier-binding moiety.

10 16. A nucleic acid molecule coding for a vascular endothelial growth factor derivative comprising at least one VEGF peptide moiety coupled to a peptide carrier-binding moiety according to claim 15, and nucleic acid molecules with sequences complementary thereto.

15 17. An expression vector comprising a nucleic acid molecule according to claim 16.

20 18. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a conjugate according to any one of claims 1 to 13 together with one or more pharmaceutically acceptable carriers or excipients.

25 19. A method of combatting tumours in a human or non-human subject comprising administering to said subject an effective amount of a conjugate as defined in any one of claims 1 to 13.

30 20. A method for achieving maximal blockade of VEGF in a human or non-human subject comparable to or exceeding that achieved by chemo- or radiotherapy, said method comprising administering to said subject an effective amount of a VEGF conjugate as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 13.